



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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LILAEA SCILLOIDES **FLOWERING QUILLWORT**

Flowering Quillwort is a tufted annual with leafless stems that are 3-20 cm high. The linear basal leaves are 2-25 cm long, longer than the stem, round in cross-section, and have a broad base that sheaths each flower stem. Male, female, or bisexual flowers are borne in an open spike that is 5-40 mm long. Additional female flowers may be found partly enclosed by the leaf sheaths. Male and bisexual flowers consist of a green elliptic bract that is 2-3 mm long and of a single stamen and/or a single ovary. Female flowers consist of a solitary ovary. The narrowly lance-shaped fruits of the spike are 3-5 mm long, flattened, and wing-margined. Fruits borne in the leaf sheaths are cylindrical, 3-angled, and have 3 small horns at the tip. Mature fruit in July.

The flower spikes of *TRIGLOCHIN* are longer than the leaves. The round leaves of *LILAEA SCILLOIDES* could also be mistaken for an *ELEOCHARIS*, *SCIRPUS* or *JUNCUS*, but these other genera have stamens in sets of 2, 3, or 6 rather than solitary. A hand lens is needed for positive identification.